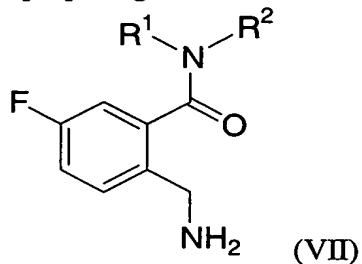


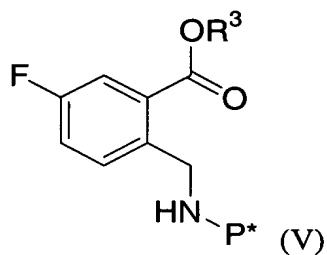
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process for preparing a benzamide compound of Formula (VII):

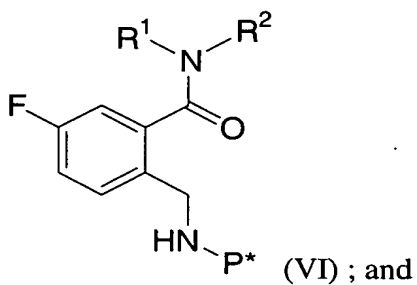


5 which comprises:

- (Y) reacting a benzoate compound of Formula (V):



with an amine of formula R^1R^2NH in a solvent Y to obtain a benzamide compound of Formula (VI):



(Z) treating the benzamide compound of Formula (VI) with an amine deprotecting agent to obtain the benzamide compound of Formula (VII);

wherein:

R^1 and R^2 are each independently:

- (1) -H,

- (2) -C₁₋₆ alkyl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 5 substituents each of which is independently -OH, -O-C₁₋₆ alkyl, -CN, -NO₂, -N(R^a)R^b, -C(=O)N(R^a)R^b, -SO₂N(R^a)R^b, -N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -N(R^a)CO₂R^c, -N(R^a)SO₂R^c, -N(R^a)SO₂N(R^a)R^b, -OC(=O)N(R^a)R^b, or -N(R^a)C(=O)N(R^a)R^b,
- 5 (3) -C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 4 substituents each of which is independently -C₁₋₄ alkyl or -O-C₁₋₄ alkyl, or
- (4) aryl, optionally substituted with from 1 to 6 substituents each of which is independently halogen, -C₁₋₄ alkyl, -O-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -CN, -N(R^a)R^b, -C(=O)N(R^a)R^b, -SO₂N(R^a)R^b, -N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -N(R^a)CO₂R^c, -N(R^a)SO₂R^c,
- 10 -(CH₂)₁₋₂-O-C₁₋₄ alkyl, -(CH₂)₁₋₂-CN, -(CH₂)₁₋₂-N(R^a)R^b, -(CH₂)₁₋₂-C(=O)N(R^a)R^b, -(CH₂)₁₋₂-SO₂N(R^a)R^b, -(CH₂)₁₋₂-N(R^a)C(=O)R^b, -(CH₂)₁₋₂-N(R^a)CO₂R^c, -(CH₂)₁₋₂-N(R^a)SO₂R^c, phenyl, or -(CH₂)₁₋₂-phenyl;

R³ is -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -C₁₋₆ alkyl-aryl, or aryl;

15

P* is an amino protective group;

each R^a is independently -H, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, or -C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl;

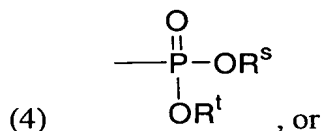
20 each R^b is independently -H, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, or -C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl; and

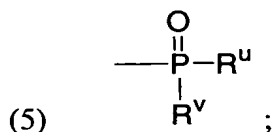
each R^c is independently -C₁₋₆ alkyl or -C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl.

25 2. The process according to claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² are each independently -H, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -C₃₋₆ cycloalkyl, or aryl.

3. The process according to claim 1, wherein P* is

- (1) -C(=O)-O-C₁₋₆ alkyl,
- (2) -C(=O)-O-CH₂-aryl,
- 30 (3) -C(=O)-O-(CH₂)₀₋₁-CH=CH₂,





wherein R^s and R^t are each independently -C_{1-6} alkyl, $\text{-CH}_2\text{-aryl}$, or aryl ; and

R^u and R^v are each independently an aryl group.

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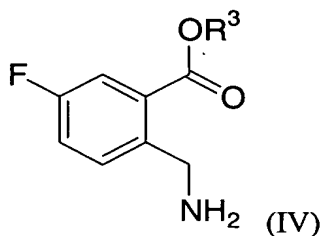
4. The process according to claim 1, wherein the reaction in Step Y is conducted at a temperature in a range of from about 50 to about 200 °C.

10 5. The process according to claim 1, wherein the amine of formula $\text{R}^1\text{R}^2\text{NH}$ is employed in Step Y in an amount in a range of from about 1 to about 200 equivalents per equivalent of benzoate compound V.

15 6. The process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent Y is selected from the group consisting of aromatic hydrocarbons, halogenated aliphatic hydrocarbons, alcohols, ethers, and nitriles.

20 7. The process according to claim 1, wherein P^* is an amino protective group capable of being cleaved by an acid and the amine deprotecting agent in Step Z comprises an acid Z that is employed in an amount in a range of from about 0.1 to about 100 equivalents per equivalent of benzamide compound VI; and the treatment in Step Z is conducted at a temperature in a range of from about -50 to about 150°C.

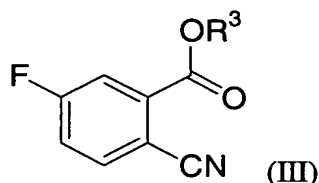
8. The process according to claim 1, which further comprises:
(X) treating a benzoate compound of Formula (IV):



with an amine protecting agent containing the group P^* in a solvent X to obtain the benzoate

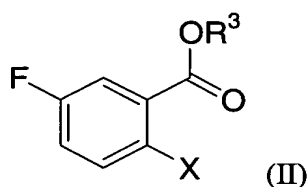
compound of Formula (V).

9. The process according to claim 8, which further comprises:
 (W) hydrogenating a benzonitrile of Formula (III):



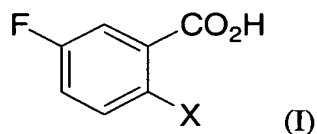
in a solvent W and in the presence of a transition metal catalyst to obtain the benzoate compound of Formula (IV).

10. The process according to claim 9, which further comprises:
 10 (V) reacting a halobenzoate compound of Formula (II):



- 15 in an aprotic solvent V with a cyanide compound selected from the group consisting of CuCN and Zn(CN)₂ to obtain the benzonitrile of Formula (III); with the proviso that when the cyanide compound is Zn(CN)₂, the reaction is conducted in the presence of a Pd compound and an activating ligand; wherein X is chloro, bromo, or iodo.

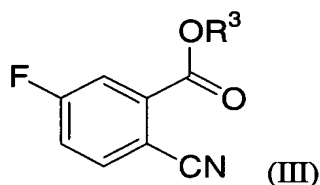
11. The process according to claim 10, which further comprises:
 (U) esterifying a benzoic acid of Formula (I):



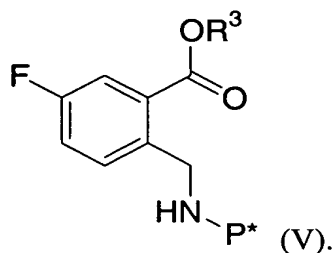
- 20 with an alcohol of formula R³-OH optionally in the presence of an acid U to obtain the halobenzoate compound of Formula (II).

12. The process according to claim 1, wherein P* is BOC, ALLOC, or CBZ; and wherein the process further comprises:

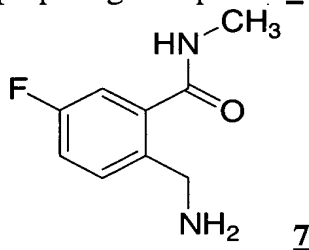
(XA) hydrogenating a benzonitrile of Formula (III):



in a solvent XA, in the presence of (i) (BOC)₂O, (ALLOC)₂O, or (CBZ)₂O and (ii) Raney nickel, and optionally in the presence of a base to obtain a benzoate compound of Formula (V):

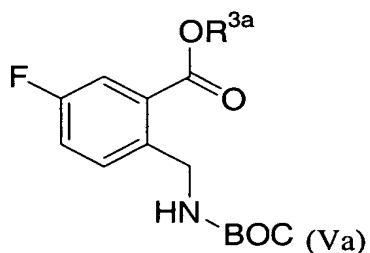


13. A process for preparing Compound 7:

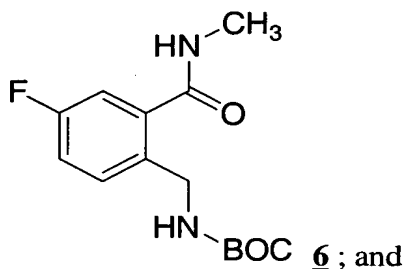


which comprises:

(yy) reacting a benzoate compound of Formula (Va):



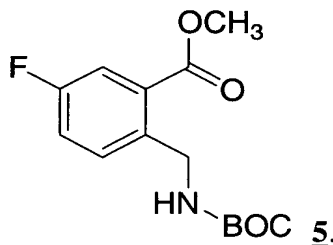
with methylamine in a solvent yy to obtain Compound 6:



(zz) treating the Compound **6** with an acid zz to obtain the Compound **7**; wherein R^{3a} is -C₁₋₆ alkyl.

5

14. The process according to claim 13, wherein the benzoate compound of Formula (Va) is Compound **5**:



10 15. The process according to claim 13, wherein:
the reaction in Step yy is conducted at a temperature in the range of from about 75
to 150°C;

methylamine is employed in Step yy in an amount in a range of from about 1.5 to about 5 equivalents per equivalent of Compound Va;

15 the solvent yy is selected from the group consisting of alcohols, ethers, and aromatic hydrocarbons

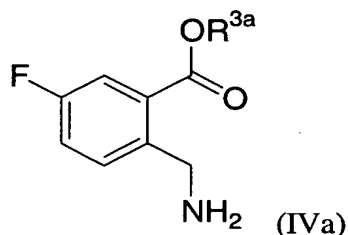
the acid zz is HCl ;

the acid zz is employed in Step zz in an amount in a range of from about 3 to about 15 equivalents per equivalent of Compound 6; and

20 the treatment in Step zz is conducted in a solvent zz which is an C₁₋₆ alkyl ester of a C₁₋₆ alkylcarboxylic acid.

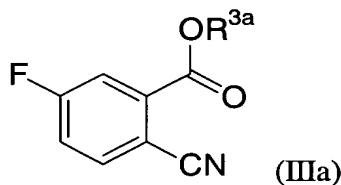
16. The process according to claim 13, which further comprises (xx)

treating a benzoate compound of Formula (IVa):



5 with an amine protecting agent containing the BOC group in a solvent xx to obtain the benzoate compound of Formula (Va).

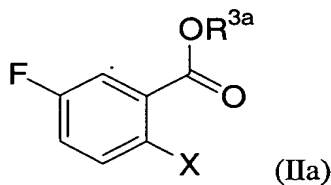
17. The process according to claim 16, which further comprises (ww) hydrogenating a benzonitrile of Formula (IIIa):



10 in a solvent ww and in the presence of a transition metal catalyst to obtain the benzoate compound of Formula (IVa).

18. The process according to claim 17, which further comprises:

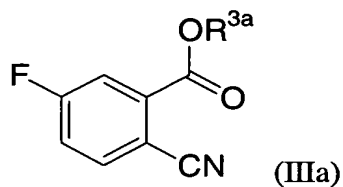
(vv) reacting a halobenzoate compound of Formula (IIa):



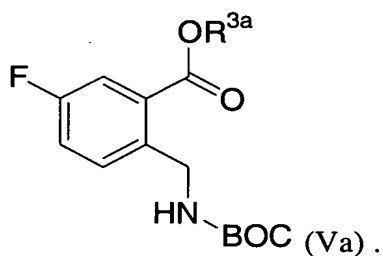
15 in an aprotic solvent vv with a cyanide compound selected from the group consisting of CuCN and Zn(CN)₂ to obtain the benzonitrile of Formula (IIIa); with the proviso that when the cyanide compound is Zn(CN)₂, the reaction is conducted in the presence of a Pd compound and an
20 activating ligand; wherein X is chloro, bromo, or iodo.

19. The process according to claim 13, which further comprises:

(xxa) hydrogenating a benzonitrile of Formula (IIIa):



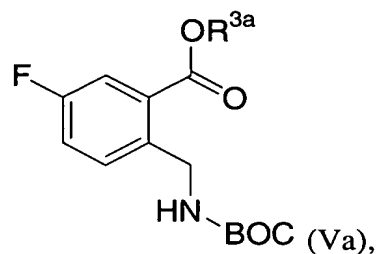
5 in a solvent xxa, in the presence of (BOC)₂O and Raney nickel, and optionally in the presence of a base to obtain a benzoate compound of Formula (Va):



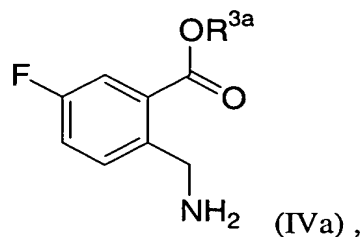
20. A compound selected from the group consisting of:

10

a compound of Formula (Va):

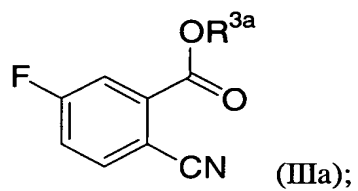


a compound of Formula (IVa):



a salt of a compound of Formula (IVa), and

a compound of Formula (IIIa):



5 wherein R^{3a} is -C₁₋₆ alkyl.